



## BLUE CRAB SUSTAINABILITY SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES GIT

### CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

#### PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Achieve a sustainable bay wide blue crab fishery through cross jurisdictional coordination that supports healthy blue crab populations and thriving fishing communities.

#### EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

PROPOSED TARGET (SMART, Directional, etc.). (Suggested time horizon of 2040 for achievement of draft output.)	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
Continually maintain abundance and harvest rate targets as determined by the 2026 benchmark stock assessment. [under construction]	new target	2025
Annually evaluate and communicate stock status through the annual blue crab advisory report and refine targets, as needed, through the next stock assessment. [under construction]	new target	2025

\*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:

Blue crabs are economically and ecologically important. The blue crab population is assessed Bay wide but the fishery is managed by three separate jurisdictions. Blue crab abundance varies year to year and geographically. Blue crabs move across the three jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, coordination between jurisdictions is key to achieving bay wide population levels and sustainable harvest. Science derived population targets inform management decisions and allow the population to be assessed annually.

#### Topics/challenges for Management Board guidance (Optional):

#### Methodology for data collection and tracking of each Target (Optional):

**Links to documentation that provide Target justification/context and/or rationale (Optional):**

Feb 13 MB 2 pager [Blue Crab Abundance Outcome-Assessment MB.pdf](#)